

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application for the reasons set forth in the following discussion.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Goundar (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0161535). The Goundar application was filed on April 14, 2003, as a continuation-in-part of an application filed February 13, 2003. Accordingly, the earliest possible effective filing date of Goundar as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is February 13, 2003.


Submitted herewith are verified English translations of Applicants' priority Japanese Application Nos. 2002-302689 filed October 17, 2002 (prior to Goundar) and 2003-310953 filed September 3, 2003. Applicants' right of priority under the Japanese '689 application is believed effective to antedate Goundar and thereby overcome the rejection of Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn and that this application be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§

1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, then such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Mitchell W. Shapiro
Reg. No. 31,568

MWS:sjk

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive
Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 903-9000

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